United Nations E/CONF.105/21

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2017

Original: English

Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
National standardization

Recommendations for the naming of urban traffic areas

Summary**

A thesis paper on the naming of urban traffic areas on the basis of a comparative investigation into relevant regulations and practices in Austria and internationally, completed in 2015 by Marlene Krapf at the Institute of Geography and Regional Research of the University of Vienna and supervised by the author of the report, revealed a remarkable lack of regulations at all administrative levels, as well as significant inconsistencies in practical procedures. The author of the thesis paper had documented all relevant regulations and conducted interviews with a number of officers responsible for the naming of streets, roads, squares, paths and other categories of urban traffic areas in urban municipalities of Austria. The thesis paper showed that in fact only Vienna applied more detailed regulations, while other Austrian cities and towns occasionally used them as a model. The thesis paper also compared Austrian regulations and practices with those of other countries, in particular, Canada, Sweden and Finland, and noted significant discrepancies between the regulations and practices used in those countries and those used in Austria.

Based on the above findings, the Austrian Board on Geographical Names decided to elaborate recommendations on the naming of urban traffic areas in Austria. Resolution VIII/2 on commemorative naming practices for geographical features, adopted by the eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, was taken as a point of departure. Regulations in Canada, Sweden and Finland were regarded as models, and the regulations for Vienna, later updated, were also taken into account.

The recommendations outlined in the report were not only developed and discussed in several meetings of the Austrian Board but were also presented and discussed in meetings of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, the expert forum for place-name standardization in Germany, which provides coordination functions for all German-speaking countries. In fact, experts of the Permanent Committee made essential contributions to the recommendations.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Austrian Board on Geographical Names. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/21/CRP.21.

Please recycle

The recommendations have been disseminated to all urban municipalities in Austria, as well as to umbrella organizations such as the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and central institutions concerned with populated places, statistics and cartography.